

John Gray Memorial at Surrey Hills.

The John Gray memorial band rotunda, erected in the gardens at Surrey Hills in commemoration of the late John Gray, one of Surrey's most highly respected and revered citizens, who passed away at the comparatively early age of 48 years in December, 1909, was ceremoniously opened and handed over to the mayor of Camberwell (Cr. A. Bowley) on Saturday afternoon last. The rotunda stands on the western slope of the hill in the public gardens in Union road, and it possesses architectural features of unusual grace and beauty. Erected on high foundation supports, which raise it well above the ground and thus provide space beneath for a band practice room, the rotunda has been carried out in a fine ornamental, yet thoroughly substantial, design. Instead of the usual straight pitch roof a cupola about 12 feet in diameter surmounts the rotunda carrying a brass weather vane, giving the building a unique and graceful appearance not usually associated with bandstands, and additional effect has been secured by the painting of the roof and its supports solely in white, the railing being carried out in fine contrast in a mahogany tint. The rotunda reflects great credit upon the architect (Mr. A. Phipps Coles) and the contractor (Mr. O. Montgomery), as well as upon the members of the committee (Messrs. A. Brooks, chairman, J. Sneddon secretary and treasurer, A. Wyatt, T. Leask, G. T. Lucas and J. Woodhead) appointed from the Surrey Hills progress association and Surrey district council. A brass tablet has been affixed to it on the northern side bearing the following inscription: "This bandstand was erected by the public of Surrey Hills to perpetuate the memory of the late John Gray, an ardent worker for the district 24/8/1912."

There was a large assemblage of local residents in the gardens on Saturday to witness the opening of the rotunda and the unveiling of the memorial plate, beside which was suspended a portrait of the deceased gentleman. Among those present were Sir Robert Best, M.P., Sir Frank Madden M.L.A., and Lady Madden, the mayor and mayoress of Camberwell (Cr. and Mrs. A. Bowley), Crs. Beckett, Read, Maling and Year (Camberwell town), President Walker and Cr. Garret (Nunawading), Mr. Robert Gray (elder son of the late Mr. John Gray), the members of the committee, and others. Prior to and during the ceremony the Surrey band played a programme of excellent music under Bandmaster F. Johnston, and detachments of scouts, and boys from the Burwood boys' home, were drawn up in the gardens. Sir Frank Madden, who was briefly introduced by Mr. Brooks in a few appropriate remarks, made an interesting speech touching the life of Mr. Gray. He said he was indeed glad to be present to assist in the opening of this fine memorial to his late friend. He had become acquainted with Mr. Gray 18 years ago, when he first sought the suffrages of the people of that district, and until the day of his death he had known him as a fine, true-hearted, honest, honorable Englishman, who had the welfare, not only of his

neared, honest, honorable Englishman, who had the welfare, not only of his district, but also of humanity at heart. He had entered into every movement for the uplifting of the people with all his heart and soul, and he had never considered himself or his own interests in the smallest degree. Therefore he was thought highly of to-day, and the large gathering present testified to the honor and esteem in which he was held. The deceased had been a man who, though he had never occupied any very high position, had done much for the good of the district, and for the exemplary way in which, with the assistance of his good wife, he had brought up their children to follow in his footsteps; a man who, if he could not say a good word for his neighbor, kept silent. He (Sir Frank) had never heard Mr. Gray say an ill word of anybody. He had gone through several election campaigns with him, and at such times as those some people were not too careful as to what they said. It was a great pity that there were not more men to-day like John Gray; the monument which the people of Surrey Hills were that day dedicating to his memory spoke volumes for what he had been. Sir Frank then unveiled the tablet, which had been covered by a Union Jack, and as the band played impressively "Nearer My God to Thee" every man in the throng removed his hat and bowed his head as a mark of respect to the memory of one who had been an exemplary citizen, husband and father.—Sir Robert Best said that no greater honor could be done to a man than that his good works should live after him, and in this manner the people of Surrey Hills were seeking to perpetuate the memory of the late John Gray and to recognise his worth as a valued citizen in the neighbourhood. As secretary of the local progress association Mr. Gray had done splendid work for the advancement of Surrey Hills and the improvement of its naturally beautiful surroundings. Sir Robert also referred in terms of admiration and appreciation to the work accomplished by the Surrey Hills progress association and Empire day committee.—Mr. Brooks, in introducing Mr. Thomas Hogg to formally "hand" the rotunda to the mayor, said that this year, for the first time in eight years, the Empire day celebrations had yielded a surplus of funds, and the committee had been proud to hand that surplus over to the memorial fund.—Mr. Hogg said he wished to add his tribute to the memory of John Gray. It had been his privilege to be closely associated with Mr. Gray in the progress association, and he had never met a more enthusiastic and self-denying man in forwarding the interests of a district than he. This self-sacrificing devotion to public work must have seriously affected his health, for the evenings which he should have devoted to his leisure and the recruiting of his health had been given up to the interests of the public. On behalf of the citizens and others who subscribed to the fund he asked the mayor to accept the rotunda, expressing the hope that it would be always cherished in memory of the good man whose name was inscribed upon the plate attached to it. Mr. Hogg also congratulated the mayor upon being a member of a progressive council, which had been ever watchful of the citizens' interests, and had provided numerous sports grounds and recreation reserves fairly distributed throughout the town. He also congratulated the mayor and mayoress

throughout the town. He also congratulated the mayor and mayoress upon their wonderfully successful year of office.—Mr. Brooks added a few words of appreciation in reference to the mayor and mayoress. Never in the history of Camberwell had there been a better mayor and mayoress than Cr. and Mrs. Bowley. It did not matter how small a request had been made, it had received Cr. Bowley's immediate personal attention; and during his regime the district had progressed and its streets had been better kept. As mayoress Mrs. Bowley had ably seconded her husband's work, and the ratepayers also felt deeply grateful to her for the many kindnesses which she had bestowed.—Mayor Bowley said that this would be one of the last mayoral functions which he would perform, owing to his term of office having nearly expired, and he took it as a great compliment that the erection of the rotunda had been pushed forward so that he could perform the opening ceremony. He had only known Mr. Gray for a short time, but he had known him sufficiently long to admire

and respect him, and he was glad that so fine a memorial had been erected in honor of the great work which he had done for Surrey Hills. He had much pleasure in accepting the bandstand on behalf of the town council. He promised personally to look well after it whilst he was in the council, and he hoped that the local children would always remember that they must not do anything which would injure or deface it. Cr. Bowley also complimented the architect upon the unique and symmetrical design of the rotunda.—Mr. Robert Gray, eldest son of the late John Gray, made a short speech on behalf of his mother, brothers and sisters. He sincerely thanked the committee and the public for the erection of such a splendid memorial to his father, and the speakers for the kind remarks which had been made. As he and his brothers passed the rotunda day by day it would inspire them to live such a life in that neighbourhood as their father had done; in the home he had been to his family a grand example of an unselfish and well-balanced life, and he trusted that he and his brothers would each live such a life and devote part of their time to the well-being of the district in which they lived.—The ceremony ended with votes of thanks to Sir Robert Best, Sir Frank Madden and the mayor, suitably proposed and seconded by Messrs. J. Sneddon and C. T. Lucas; and the band then entered the rotunda for the first time and played excellently several fine selections. Subsequently a large number of residents and visitors were entertained at afternoon tea in Surrey hall by the mayoress, for whom, together with the mayor, three ringing cheers were given, at the suggestion of